

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15
SP-02 PA-01 ICA-11 IO-13 L-03 NSC-05 H-01 /078 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:GDKULICK:DLD
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
HA/HR:EOJONES

-----013799 100133Z /70

P 100032Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: CARR, IS

SUBJECT: SAMI ESMail: PETITION FROM SUPPORTERS

1. DELEGATION FROM PALESTINE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN (PHRC),
HEADED BY CHAIRMAN JAMES ZOGBY, VISITED DEPARTMENT JUNE 9
TO PRESENT APPEAL ON BEHALF OF SAMI ESMail WHICH WAS TO BE
PRESENTED LATER SAME DAY TO ISRAELI AMBASSADOR DINITZ WITH
WHOM THEY HAD ALREADY MADE APPOINTMENT. PRESENTATION WAS
MADE TO REPRESENTATIVE OF BUREAU OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANI-
TARIAN AFFAIRS WHO RELAYED THE TEXT OF APPEAL BY TELEPHONE
TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VELIOTES IN PRESENCE OF
DELEGATION.

2. VELIOTES TOLD DELEGATION WE WOULD ASK EMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO INFORM GOI OF APPEAL AND ACCOMPANYING PRESS RELEASE.
HE ALSO SAID WE REMAIN INTENSELY
INTERESTED IN THE ESMail CASE. EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOW
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THROUGH ON THIS UNDERTAKING AT APPROPRIATE TIME AND LEVEL.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED VERY HEAVY BARRAGE OF TELEPHONE
CALLS, TELEGRAMS, AND LETTERS ABOUT THE ESMail CASE. THE
DOMINANT THEME IS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INSUF-
FICIENTLY INTERESTED IN THEESMAIL CASE, REFLECTING DEPART-
MENT'SLACK OF INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS OF AMCIT ESMail AND

IN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY ISRAEL OF PALESTINIANS IN
GENERAL.

4. TEXT OF APPEAL, WHICH HAS LENGTHY LIST OF SPONSORS
FROM RELIGIOUS, ACADEMIC AND CIVIL LIBERTIES "COMMUNITIES"
FOLLOWS. FULL TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE AND LIST OF SPONSORS
BEING POUCHED.

5. "ON JUNE 7TH AN ISRAELI COURT FOUND SAMI ESMail, A US
CITIZEN, GUILTY OF MEMBERSHIP IN AN ORGANIZATION CONSIDERED
ILLEGAL UNDER ISRAELI LAW. THE ISRAELI COURT AND THE PROSE-
CUTION ADMIT THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT MR. ESMail
COMMITTED OR INTENDED TO COMMIT ANY ACTION AGAINST THE
STATE OF ISRAEL. MR. ESMail'S RESPONSE TO THIS CONVICTION
IS: PLEASE, I AM COMPLETELY INNOCENT OF ALL CHARGES. MY
ONLY CRIME IS MY POLITICAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE OPPRESSED
AND HOMELESS PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER PEOPLES, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. IT WAS PRESENTED
TO THE COURT THAT THE USUAL PRISON TERM FOR THE CRIME OF
'MEMBERSHIP'IS FIVE TO SEVEN MONTHS. HOWEVER, THE PROSE-
CUTION IS ASKING FOR A HARSH SENTENCE AS AN EXAMPLE TO DE-
TER OTHERS. AS AMERICANS CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS, WE
URGE THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES TO CONSIDER THE SIX MONTHS
MR. ESMail HAS ALREADY SPENT IN PRISON, HIS SUFFERING, AND
THE NORMAL SENTENCING PRACTICES OF THE ISRAELI COURTS, AND
TO SHOW CLEMENCY AND TO ALLOW HIS IMMEDIATE RETURN TO THE
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UNITED STATES.

6. IN PRESENTING APPEAL TO DEPARTMENT, ZOGBY MADE THE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT: 'THIS APPEAL DEMONSTRATES TO THE
ISRAELIS AND TO OUR OWN GOVERNMENT THAT THERE IS BROAD
AND INFLUENTIAL PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR MR. ESMail. WE WILL NOT
FORGET HIM. WE HAVE BEEN VERY DISAPPOINTED BY THE IN-
ADEQUATE RESPONSE OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO THE VIOLATIONS OF
MR. ESMail'S RIGHTS. WE WANT OUR GOVERNMENT TO ACT NOW ON
HIS BEHALF AND WE URGE THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW MR.
ESMail TO COME HOME."

VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 10 jun 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780242-0682
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ISecure: 1
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: CARR, IS
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